This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Allowed) A tracheal cannula for insertion through a tracheotomy incision into a patient's trachea, at a position below the larynx, the trachea having a cross-sectional area, said cannula having a shaft and a cuff for blocking the tracheal cross-sectional area surrounding the shaft wherein a shaft section extends above the cuff, characterized in that section of the shaft lying above the cuff has a window covered by an air-permeable membrane, wherein the air-permeable membrane has sufficient permeability to allow for patient vocalization.

2. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 1, characterized such that the membrane is not permeable to water.

3. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 2, characterized such that the membrane consists essentially of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE).

4. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 2, characterized such that the membrane comprises polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE).

5. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 3, characterized such that the membrane comprises a fabric made of PTFE lacing.

6. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 4, characterized in that the membrane consists of a fabric made of PTFE lacing.

7. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 1, characterized such that at the entrance of the cannula, a valve is provided which opens upon inhalation and closes upon exhalation.

8. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 2, characterized such that at the entrance of the cannula, a valve is provided which opens upon inhalation and closes upon exhalation.

9. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 3, characterized such that at the entrance of the cannula, a valve is provided which opens upon inhalation and closes upon exhalation.

10. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 4, characterized such that at the entrance of the cannula, a valve is provided which opens upon inhalation and closes upon exhalation.

11. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 5, characterized such that at the entrance of the cannula, a valve is provided which opens upon inhalation and closes upon exhalation.

12. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 6, characterized such that at the entrance of the cannula, a valve is provided which opens upon inhalation and closes upon exhalation.

13. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 1, characterized such that the cuff is connected via a line to balloon means for the inflation of the cuff and for controlling the cuff pressure.

14. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 2, characterized such that the cuff is connected via a line to balloon means for the inflation of the cuff and for controlling the cuff pressure.

15. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 3, characterized such that the cuff is connected via a line to balloon means for the inflation of the cuff and for controlling the cuff pressure.

16. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 4, characterized such that the cuff is connected via a line to balloon means for the inflation of the cuff and for controlling the cuff pressure.

17. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 5, characterized such that the cuff is connected via a line to balloon means for the inflation of the cuff and for controlling the cuff pressure.

18. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 6, characterized such that the cuff is connected via a line to balloon means for the inflation of the cuff and for controlling the cuff pressure.

19. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 7, characterized such that the cuff is connected via a line to balloon means for the inflation of the cuff and for controlling the cuff pressure.

20. (Allowed) The cannula based on claim 13, wherein said balloon means comprises a pilot balloon.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 2. This sheet, which includes Figure 2, replaces the original sheet including Figure 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet.